AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 2 of page 28 with the following amended paragraph:

A method and system for decoding symbols of variable length in a digital video bit stream in real time, using Very Long Instruction Word (VLIW) architecture. In ~~One~~ one embodiment, ~~of the present invention first reads~~ several bit sections are first read from a bit stream. ~~The bit stream comprises digital video information and is made up of a series of encoded symbols of varying length.~~ While the first bit section will correspond to a valid symbol in the bit-stream, the rest of the bit sections may or may not, depending on the length of the first section. ~~The next step of this embodiment is indexing a~~ A table of variable length codes is then indexed to obtain a look-up result for each of the read-in bit sections, which ~~. This~~ is done in parallel for all sections. Next, ~~this embodiment of the present invention determines~~ a determination is made as to whether each of the look-up results is valid. A valid look-up result provides the length of the symbol. ~~Next, the~~ The valid look-up values are then accepted. In another embodiment ~~of the present invention, an additional step is performed of advancing~~ the bit stream is thereafter advanced by the sum of all accepted look-up results ~~and reading more bit sections. In another embodiment, by utilizing parallel hardware resources, one software loop can decode multiple blocks of a bit stream at the same time because the starting point of each block is known in advance.~~